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ABSTRACT

To promote the university academic adjustment of Canada natives, the program evaluates native education, develops curriculum, helps schools prepare for local control, prepares research studies, and conducts workshops. During academic year 1983-1984, instructor and student tutors provided more than 1,000 tutoring contact hours to some 300 of the 600 identified Indian students at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. Other support services provided by the program coordinator encompassed psychological assessment through test administration and results interpretation, consulting and referral activities for information and other support agency contact, and management of study skills workshops. The program coordinator also participated in professional conferences related to native education, counseling and employment opportunities, and supervised and directed two program tutors. Group study skills and academic achievement tests were administered at selected secondary schools. Ongoing research projects include study of alcoholism and education and vocational interest testing. A staff publications list is appended. (MM)

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MANITOBA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Winnipeg, July 1984

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MANITOBA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

A Learning Assistance Program

MIEA is an organization funded by the Tribal Councils of Manitoba and the Department of Indian Affairs. It was officially incorporated in November 1981. The objectives of MIEA are to assist in the development of people involved in Indian education. The program includes evaluating native education, developing curriculum, helping schools to prepare for local control, preparing research studies, conducting workshops, and helping students move into Winnipeg and cope with getting an education. The MIEA Board of Directors are appointed by the Chiefs of each Tribal Council who are in turn responsible to their band members.

The MIEA Learning Assistance Program began in September 1981 at the Campus of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg to help native students cope with the demands of a university academic environment. Today the program has grown to include services for all levels of students on the MIEA program, at both secondary and post secondary levels.

The most widely used part of the program is the one-to-one tutoring service which provided over 1,000 contact hours of tutoring to the nearly one half of the 600 students between September 1983 and June 1984. The tutors included two sessional instructors, two work study tutors, (funded by the University of Manitoba through a federal government program to hire students), and a dozen part-time student tutors who specialized in English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, and Accounting in high school; and English, Economics, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology and Anthropology in college. A large appointment book was kept at the MIEA Office in downtown Winnipeg where most of the tutoring took place between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily. Tutoring appointments were made either by the student or by his counsellor to work for one hour periods on a one-to-one basis with a tutor specializing in the subject area where the student needs help. Each new student seeking tutoring was to record his/her name, birthdate, tribal council affiliation, current phone number and address, last grade in school completed, and current academic program. In summary, the purpose of the tutoring program is to support native students in coping with their academic programs.

The tutoring program is growing rapidly and future plans include professional development and orientation with tutors, closer liason with classroom teachers, and the development of peer counselling and native tutors.

The MIEA Learning Assitance Program during the 1983/84 academic year provided other support services for the students.

Psychological Assessment

The coordinator provided psychological assessment of students when requested by individual counsellors. The service involved giving the students the Differential Aptitude Test and additional personality or vocational interest tests where required. Interpretation of the test results were provided in writing to the counsellors and academic placements in educational settings. Two dozen prospective University of Manitoba university students were given psychological assessment during the year.

Consulting/Referrals

The coordinator provided information and services to numerous outside agencies seeking help for native students at the University of Manitoba. The Department of English, Faculty of Education, St. John's College, (Training Program for Native Anglican Priests), ACCESS program, and Native Students Advisor's Office were provided with services in tutoring, study skills, academic advising, and/or career counselling.

Off campus, the coordinator assisted the University of Winnipeg Counselling Service (Dr. Barry Noonan) in planning a Native Student Learning Resource Centre. The coordinator also prepared and presented a workshop in couple's communications to the St. Mary's Cathedral Adult Enrichment Group.

Study Skills Groups

During the year, the program provided three six week evening sessions in study skills to MIEA students in testing/self assessment, note taking, reading text books, time management, exam and test preparation and writing essays. A total of 23 MIEA students attended the twelve hour study skills workshops.

Professional Development

The coordinator participated in a number of conferences and workshops related to native education, counselling and employment opportunities. These included a co-presentation with Grace McLeod of a session explaining MIEA and the Learning Assistance Program to delegates at the May, 1984 Canadian Guidance Counselling Conference in Winnipeg.

University of Manitoba Work Study Program

The coordinator was able to hire two tutors through the federally funded program and supervision and direction was given to them on an ongoing basis throughout the academic years.

Study Skills/Academic Achievement Testing on Reserves

The coordinator provided a four day study skills and D.A.T. Testing (adademic achievement level) program in February, 1984 at Keeseekoowenin Reserve. In April, 1984, a four day study habits evaluation and grade nine and twelve D.A.T. Testing Program were done at Peguis School with the cooperation of the principal and guidance counsellor.

Research/Writing

As a member of the University of Manitoba community, the coordinator has been actively involved in ongoing research projects in alcoholism, education and vocational interest testing.

Publications

Hurlburt, Graham, "Psychoticism, teacher appraisal, and life styles of a canadian high school sample, "Alberta Journal of Educational Research", Vol. 27, No. 2, Fall 1981, 211-216.

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Toews, Gurney, and Hurlburt, Graham, "Education for employment, a manitoba model", Journal of Thought, Spring 1984.

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